

REMARKS

By this Amendment the claims 15, 22 and 33 have been amended to more concisely define the invention and to place them (and the claims dependent thereon) in an immediately allowable condition. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding office Action the examiner has (1) rejected claims 15, 17(15), 19(15), 20(15), 22, 25(22), 27(22), 29(22), 30(22), 31(22), 32(22) and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Itsumi et al. (newly cited). The inventor disagrees.

Itsumi et al. disclose an automatic focus control apparatus for a video camera. As shown in Fig. 4A, an image pick up device 20 is mounted on a holding means 55 which is connected by connection arm 52 to pivotal arm 51. The pivotal arm 51 is connected to connection arm 53, which is connected to holding means 56 that mounts lens group 14. Leftward movement of the holding means 55 along guides 58 by the piezoelectric actuator 30 will cause the holding means 56 to move along guides 58 to the right and vice versa. This is because the pivotal arm 51 rotates around the pivot 54. The holding means 55 is not movable in a preselected direction which is perpendicular to the axis of an imaging beam as defined in amended claims 15, 22 and 33.

The examiner's rejection based on Itsumi et al. must be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 22, 23 26(22) and 26(23) under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (newly cited).

This rejection is without merit. Tanaka discloses a camera having a focus adjusting lens assembly; however, as with Itsumi et al., the lens system does not move in a direction perpendicular to the axis of an imaging beam.

The examiner's rejection based on Tanaka must be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 16, 17-21(16), 23, 24-25(23), 27(23) and 29-32(23) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Itsumi et al. in view of Shoshan et al. (newly cited).

This rejection is without merit. Shoshan et al. disclose an apparatus for orthogonal movement, but none of the structures disclosed would make obvious reconstruction of the automatic focus control apparatus of Itsumi et al. such that the holding means 55 would move in a direction perpendicular to the imaging beam axis.

The examiner has rejected claims 28(22) and 28(23) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Itsumi et al.

However, for the reasons indicated previously, no combination of Tanaka and Itsumi et al. would result in the claimed arrangement.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the presented claims are allowable.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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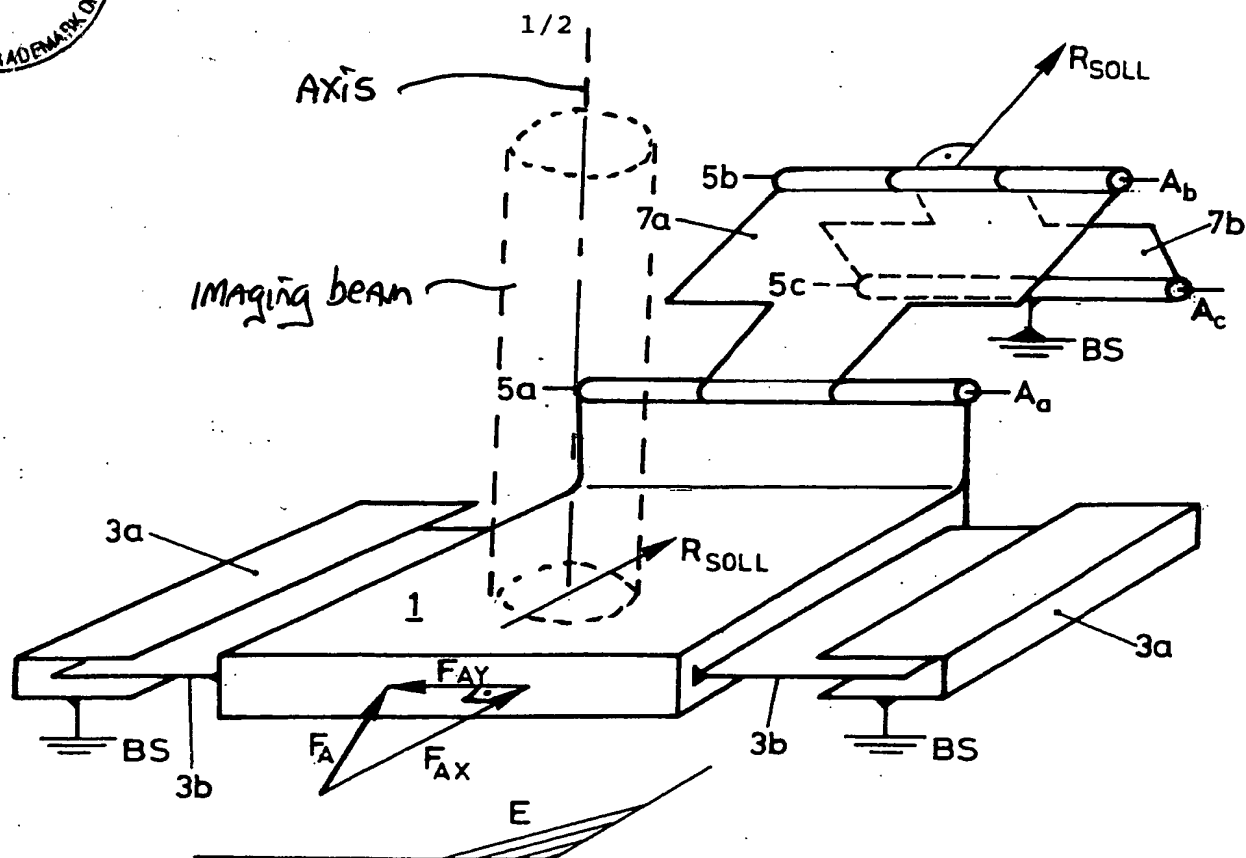


FIG.1